GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
WARNING SIGNALS TO FISHERMEN
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any arrangements for giving warning signals to fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fishermen arrested by Pakistan due to failure on the part of Coast Guards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the warning system is streamlined?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 162 FOR 29.11.2001

Following arrangements exist for giving warning signals to fishermen:

(i) Weather bulletins including cyclone warning for fishermen are broadcast on AIR.

(ii) Storm warning signals in the form of flags/lights are displayed at all ports.

(iii) Related State Government Departments are informed of impending danger at sea so that they can also inform the fishermen.

(iv) In addition, regular instructional lectures are organized by Coast Guard to indicate maritime boundaries and safety precautions.

2. Fishermen being apprehended by Pakistan cannot be attributed to failure on the part of Coast Guard as despite advice they do not keep within national maritime boundaries. It has been found that fishermen`s boats are not properly equipped with communication and navigational equipment. In addition, some fishermen continue to disregard the advice given by Coast Guard and get apprehended by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA).

Fishing in territorial waters (up to 12 nautical mile) is a state subject and the operations of fishermen are governed by Marine Fisheries Regulation Act of the respective coastal states. The Union Government is responsible for administering operations of fishermen in the deep sea (beyond 12 nautical miles and up to 200 nautical miles).

Coast Guard has recommended to State Governments to equip fishing vessels with basic radio communication equipment.The Union Ministry of Agriculture is examining a proposal of establishing satellite based Vessel Management System for fishing vessels.